Information for the other countries for this period is not available.

(b) Steps taken to enhance the unit value realisation by growers include :

(i) Streamlining of FCV tobacco marketing through auction system.

(Li) Regulation of production in line with demand.

(iii) Measures aimed at improving productivity & quality.

(iv) Exploring new markets.

Trade enquiries from CIS to import FCV Tobacco

40. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number of trade enquiries received from C.I.S. to import FCV tobacco from India;

(b) what is the number of their representatives who visited tobacco growing areas and auction platforms; and

(c) what are the details of trade negotiations and with what effect ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) The Tobacco Board has received six trade enquiries.

(b) Six.

(c) The representatives held discussions with Indian exporters and have shown interest in the import of FCV and non FCV tobaccos from India.

Permission to 100 per cent E.O.U's to Sell *to* domestic users

41. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to issue guidelines pertaining to the sale by 100 per cent export oriented units, in foreign currency, to domestic tariff area (DTA) to domestic users;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) by when a decision is likely to be taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (c) Provisions of para 103(b) of Export & Import Policy as well as Guidelines for sales in the domestic tariff area permit Export Oriented Units to effect such sales- against foreign exchange. Certain operational problems have, however, been reported which is being sorted out in consultation with the concerned authorities.

Signing of SAPTA at Dhaka SAARC Summit

42. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the South Asian Preferential Trade Agreement (SAPTA) has been signed at the recently held Dhaka SAARC Summit; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The Agreement, which will enter into force thirty days after the SAARC Secretariat notifies that all Contracting States have completed the formalities, provides for the establishment of the SAARC Preferential Trading Arrangement to promote and sustain mutual trade and economic cooperation among Contracting States through exchanges of concessions. In accordance with the agreement, Contracting States have now to take the next step of negotiating tariff preferences on a product-by-product basis.

Export of plantation crops

43. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :